



Ascension

Ascension Saint Agnes Visitor Guidelines

Effective May 12, 2023, Updated November 2023

As part of a comprehensive response to endemic changes in incidence of COVID-19, Flu and RSV, Ascension Saint Agnes has evaluated and altered our visitor procedures. Our priority is to keep everyone safe.

Visitors are allowed during **Visiting Hours of 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.** under specific circumstances outlined below. Department-specific exceptions to these hours may apply. Exceptions to this visitor policy may be considered for specific situations*, including End-of-Life, as outlined below based on the approval from the **Department Manager/designee or physician on a case-by-case basis.**

Patients with a disability (physical or cognitive) who require bedside care from a caregiver due to the specifics of their disability are permitted one (1) visitor at all times. Additional guidelines may apply for certain situations as outlined below.

Any person presenting to Ascension Saint Agnes seeking care by the individual or someone else on their behalf, or if a prudent layperson observer would conclude from the individual's appearance that they are in need of examination or treatment of a medical condition, regardless of any accompanying visitors, must be evaluated by a medical professional in the Emergency Department or in the Labor and Delivery Unit.

Visitors must follow these guidelines:

- All visitors will be required to self-screen for symptoms (including fever, cough, shortness of breath, diarrhea, loss of smell or taste, runny nose) and will not be allowed to visit if symptoms exist.
- All visitors must follow the Ascension Saint Agnes masking guidelines. Visitors without hospital-approved masks will be given one upon entry if required.
- No visitors under age 12 are allowed unless approved under special circumstances*. This includes waiting rooms and other public areas. Visitors under age 18 must be

Patients who are NOT COVID-19 positive (continued):

distancing not be possible, visitors will be asked to return to their vehicle or wait outside of the facility until the patient is brought back to a treatment room.

- One (1) person will be allowed to stay with the patient in the waiting room at all times if:
 - Patient's disability requires the frequent or continued assistance from a caregiver.
 - Patient requires assistance for cognitive needs.
 - Patient is being treated for a critical care emergency or illness.
- Once a patient has been brought back to the treatment area, two (2) visitors may be at the bedside, at the discretion of the treatment team.
 - The person must stay with the patient.
 - The visitor may accompany the patient to their room if admitted after checking in with the main entrance.
- **Adult Emergency Department- End of Life:** up to (3) visitors are permitted at the bedside at any one time; additional visitors may be permitted at one time, if requested, at the discretion of the medical team; there are no restrictions on the age of visitors in this situation. Visitors may switch out as needed.

Pediatric Emergency:

- Two (2) parents/caregivers of a patient may be at the bedside for as long as needed.
- Two (2) visitors at a time may visit in the room with a deceased child.

Same Day Surgery:

- Up to two (2) visitors may accompany the patient and wait in the surgical waiting room as long as social distancing can be maintained.
- Up to two (2) visitors may accompany the patient to the bedside when appropriate to participate in teaching or discharge planning.

Surgery with Overnight Stay:

- Up to two (2) visitors may accompany the patient

	<p>and wait in the surgical waiting room as long as social distancing can be maintained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to two (2) visitors may accompany the patient to their room if admitted after checking in with the main entrance. <p>Outpatient Appointments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One (1) visitor <p>End of Life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific accommodations* may be made for end-of-life and General Inpatient Program Hospice patients, including for children under the minimum visitor age. <p>Faith leaders and Clergy members are considered part of the care team and do not count towards any visitor restrictions.</p> <p>ALL visits must take place in the patient room only.</p> <p>Visitors must wear personal protective equipment as directed by staff pursuant to the hospital's masking policy.</p> <p>Any question about whether a visitor can/should stay with the patient should be directed to the Department Manager/care team.</p>
Type of Patient	Visitor Details
<p>Patients Who <u>ARE</u> COVID-19 Positive or Awaiting Test Results:</p>	<p>All visitors to COVID-19 positive patients or patients awaiting test results must wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) as directed by the patient's care team. Surgical masks and eye protection are required.</p> <p>Visits must take place in the Patient Room Only.</p> <p>Admitted Patients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two (2) visitors/support persons may visit at a time. <p>Pediatric Patients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two (2) parents/caregivers of a patient may visit

**Patients Who ARE COVID-19
Positive or Awaiting Test Results:**

at a time for as long as needed.

- Two (2) parents or caregivers at a time may visit in the room with a deceased child.

OB Patients:

- One (1) visitor not inclusive of a professional support person/postpartum helper of a patient in the labor & delivery and postpartum units per calendar day.

NICU Patients:

- COVID-19 positive parents should not visit for 7 days from onset of symptoms and should be afebrile for at least 48 hours without the use of antipyretics before visiting.
- If Mom is COVID-19 positive, the other parent / support person may visit if they are asymptomatic.

Adult Emergency Department

- One (1) visitor may accompany the patient at a time. The visitor is not to leave the treatment space.

End of Life:

- Two (2) visitors are permitted on a rotating basis.
- Specific accommodations* may be made for end-of-life and General Inpatient Program Hospice patients, including for children under the minimum visitor age.

Faith leaders and Clergy members are considered part of the care team and do not count towards any visitor restrictions.

*Process for requesting an exception for specific circumstances: Patients or visitors requesting an exception should first speak to the Department Manager or designee. After hours concerns may be brought to the attention of the Nursing Supervisor on duty or the Administrator on Call. The person granting the exception will be responsible for communicating the exception circumstances to the front desk and security staff.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation for everyone's safety and will provide an update to this guidance as the situation progresses.